



## 2010 INDIANA CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

### General Overview

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**An Indiana Research Collaboration**

**By:**

The Indiana Criminal Justice  
Institute

The Glengariff Group

The Indiana University Center for  
Criminal Justice Research



GLENGARIFF GROUP, INC.



CENTER FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH



INDIANA UNIVERSITY PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

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Currently, the State of Indiana lacks a mandatory comprehensive data source to which law enforcement agencies report crime data. Although state and local law enforcement agencies may report into the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), it is not mandatory. While the UCR provides information on the number of reported crimes and arrests made by reporting law enforcement agencies, it does not capture data regarding unreported crimes or the characteristics of the victims and offenders. During the spring of 2011, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) conducted the first Indiana Victimization Survey in order to better understand crime and victimization in Indiana. With the assistance of Indiana University's Center for Criminal Justice Research and the Glengariff Group, Inc., the ICJI seeks to provide to state and local policymakers accurate and comprehensive Indiana crime data.

### Background

Accurate measures of crime are essential for the formulation of informed criminal justice policy, the creation of prevention and intervention programs, and the development of criminological theory. Two primary crime data collection programs are in operation in the United States: the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) and the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The UCR, compiled by the FBI, relies on known and reported crime data provided by local police departments. Despite its strengths the UCR suffers the major limitation of only noting crimes reported to the police; a significant weakness considering a substantial portion of all crime goes unreported. In addition, Indiana law enforcement agencies are not required to submit UCR data to the FBI. This underreporting and the resulting underestimate of crime have led to the emergence of additional measures of crime. To complement the UCR, the Bureau of Justice Statistics conducts an annual nationwide survey, the NCVS, to estimate rates of victimization across the country. This collection effort, begun in 1973, counts victimization regardless of whether the offense was reported to the police. While this data collection is successful in describing trends in national victimization rates and in providing characteristics of criminal victimization, it has limited value to state and local policymakers, researchers, and

practitioners. Since the NCVS is based on a national sample of respondents, individual communities or states represent only a small fraction of the overall sample, thereby prohibiting the extraction of reliable state and local crime statistics.

The value of existing crime data collection programs for state and local officials is limited by the weakness inherent in both official crime statistics and national survey data. The underreporting associated with UCR crime data contributes to an incomplete account of crime. While the NCVS overcomes this limitation by documenting reported and unreported crime, its national scope prohibits its use in local policymaking and research. For policymakers and practitioners to better understand crime in Indiana, the NCVS data collection effort was duplicated at a local level. By administering a statewide crime victimization survey, policymakers, practitioners, and researchers are able to retain the completeness of the NCVS while making victimization data more meaningful to Indiana communities. Duplicating the NCVS will provide key stakeholders with accurate and comprehensive crime data to assist in local and statewide criminal justice policymaking.

### Methodology

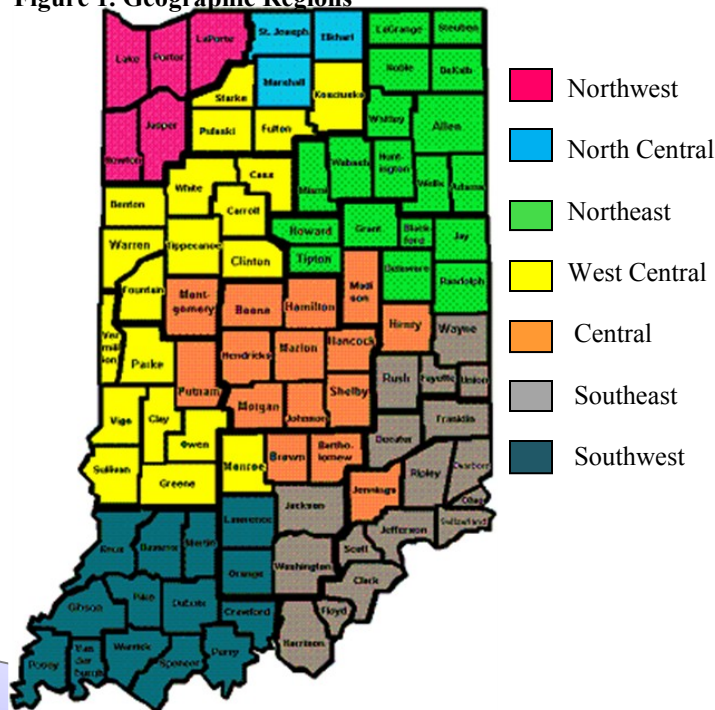
Using random-digit dialing, representatives from the Glengariff Group, Inc. conducted 2,500 complete home telephone surveys of Indiana residents to obtain data regarding criminal victimization rates and victim demographics. The Indiana Crime Victimization Survey tool asked respon-

dents to state whether they were a victim of a variety of crimes during 2010, which were sorted into four categories: property crimes, violent crimes, threats of crime, and identity theft. Those reported being victimized were asked follow-up questions regarding police notification and offender characteristics. An interview was considered complete when the respondent completed the entire survey instrument.

To obtain an accurate representation of the Indiana adult population, the Glengariff

Group, Inc. stratified the survey by county, region, gender, age, and ethnicity based on populations reported by the 2010 United States Census. Further, Indi-

**Figure 1. Geographic Regions**



ana counties were stratified and categorized into seven regions. The number of respondents needed to complete the survey in each county was determined by the county's percentage of Indiana's total population. The survey had a margin of error of +/- 1.96 percent with a 95 percent level of confidence.

Between March 30 and April 16, 2011, a total of 8,002 calls were made, of which 2,500 respondents completed the survey, 869 individuals refused to begin the survey, and 273 respondents terminated their interview prior to its completion. This resulted in a participation rate of 68.6 percent. A total of 4,360 calls were filtered because no eligible individuals were in the household when contacted, unconnected telephone numbers, and business phone numbers.

### Crime Victimization Rates

Survey respondents were asked whether they were a victim of property crimes, violent crimes, threats of crime, or identity theft during 2010. Those who stated they were

Table 1. Criminal Victimizations by Type of Crime		
Type of Crime	Number of Incidents	Number of Victims
All Crimes	1,469	758
Property Crimes	651	194
Violent Crimes	168	129
Threats of Crime	265	281
Identity Theft	385	758

victimized provided additional information regarding their relationship with the offender and whether they reported the crime to the police.

Nearly a third (30.3 percent) of all respondents reported being a victim of a crime during 2010. The highest victimization rate was for property crimes (19.28 percent), followed by ID theft (11.24 percent), violent crimes (7.76 percent), and threats of crime (5.16 percent).

### Property Crimes

The Indiana Crime Victimization Survey measures property crimes of household burglary, property theft, motor vehicle theft, and vandalism. Nearly a fifth (19.3 percent) of respondents reported a total of 651 incidents.

#### Household Burglary

Over five percent (5.1 percent) of respondents stated that during 2010 somebody attempted to break into their home, garage, shed, or other building on their property. Of those, nearly 77 percent of respondents reported that belongings were taken. Seventy-five percent of those who reported that someone broke into or attempted to break into their property reported the incident to the police. Most victims

(60.2 percent) stated a stranger or unknown person committed the crime.

#### Property Theft

A total of 131 respondents stated that they or family members had items such as bicycles, lawn furniture, or toys stolen from outside of their home. Nearly two-thirds of the victims (64.1 percent) did not report the crime to police mainly because they felt the offense was minor or not important or they believed the police would not be able to do anything or would be inefficient.

#### Motor Vehicle Theft

Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding motor vehicle thefts; specifically, whether their or a household member's vehicle, vehicle parts, or items inside of a vehicle were stolen. Respondents reported 183 instances of motor vehicle theft occurred during 2010.

Nearly one percent (0.9 percent) of respondents stated that their or a household member's car, truck, van, motorcycle, or moped was stolen during 2010. Nineteen of the respondents reported the crime to the police, three did not report the crime because they believed the police would not be able to do anything or they felt the offense was minor or not important. Half of the victims stated a stranger or unknown person committed the crime while seven victims stated they knew the victim and four victims did not know who committed the crime.

Fifty respondents stated that vehicle parts, including tires, fuel, batteries, and hubcaps belonging to them or a household member were stolen during 2010. Sixty percent of the victims did not report the crime to the police because they believed the police would not be able to do anything (14 respondents), felt the offense was minor (eight respondents), did not find out about the crime right away (six respondents), believed the incident was a private or personal matter (five respondents), or did not want to get the offender into trouble (one respondent).

Respondents were also asked if items such as cash, CDs, iPods, cell phones, bags, purses, or packages were taken from inside of a vehicle that belonged to them or a household member. Over 100 respondents (111) stated that items were taken from their vehicle. Over eleven percent (11.7 percent) of the items were returned to the owner. Over two-thirds of the victims (70.5 percent) stated that a stranger or unknown person stole the items.

#### Vandalism

A total of 209 respondents stated that during 2010, either their or a household member's property was vandalized, intentionally damaged, or destroyed. Of those, 112 respondents reported the crime to the police. Eighty percent



of the respondents who did not report the crime to police did not do so because they either believed the police would not be able to do anything or would be inefficient or they felt the offense was minor or not important. Over half of respondents whose property was vandalized, damaged, or destroyed (56.5 percent) stated that a stranger or an unknown person committed the crime.

### **Violent Crimes**

Violent crimes include robbery, assault, domestic violence, and sexual assaults. Overall, 7.8 percent of respondents stated that they had been a victim of a violent crime during 2010.

#### *Robbery*

Nineteen respondents stated that somebody took or attempted to take property or cash directly from them by using force or the threat of force. Ten respondents did not report the crime to the police because they did not think the police would be able to do anything about it, would be inefficient, or they believed the incident was a private or personal matter and police involvement was not needed. Ten of the victims did not know the offender. Of the six respondents who knew the offender, half stated that the offender was well known to them, but not a family member.

#### *Assault*

Respondents were asked whether they were attacked with physical force, except for instances that occurred during other crimes, such as rape, sexual assault, and robbery, by anybody other than a spouse, partner, or significant other. Twenty-one respondents stated that they were assaulted during 2010. Of those, 15 stated the offender was either a family member, a person well known to them (i.e., friend or roommate), or a casual acquaintance. Seven of the victims reported the incident to the police.

Nineteen respondents, 12 of whom were males, stated they were threatened to be attacked with a weapon or object by somebody other than a spouse, significant other, or partner. Of those who reported being threatened, over two-thirds (68.4 percent) stated they reported the incident to the police.

#### *Domestic Violence*

Forty-five respondents reported 69 incidents of domestic violence. Due to victims being allowed to choose more than one option, a total of 69 domestic violence incidents occurred. Nearly half (43.5 percent) of the incidents involved slapping, punching, kicking, or pushing the victim. Nearly thirty-two percent (31.8 percent) of domestic violence victims stated that the offender threatened them with violence or to kill them. Thirty-four percent of domestic violence victims reported the crime to the police after at

least some or all of the incidents. Of the 28 respondents that did not report the crime to the police, 10 respondents stated that they did not do so because they feared the offender or others and nine reported that they did not want the offender to get into trouble.

#### *Sexual Assault*

Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding being sexually assaulted, which was broken into three categories: unwanted sexual activity through the use of force, unwanted sexual activity while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, and unwanted sexual activity such as grabbing, fondling, touching, or kissing.

Respondents were asked whether anyone had forced or attempted to force them by using violence, the threat of violence, verbal threats, or the use of a weapon to engage in any form of unwanted sexual intercourse. Eight respondents, all female, stated that they had been a victim of sexual assault during 2010. Seventy-five percent of the crimes were reported to the police. Reasons cited for not reporting the incident to police include that the victim did not want the offender to get into trouble, feared the offender or others, and believed the incident was a private or personal matter and the police did not need to be involved. Five victims stated they knew the offender, three of whom were a current or former spouse or significant other.

Eight respondents, seven females and one male, reported that they were forced into sexual activity for which they were unable to give consent because they were under the influence of drugs and or alcohol that was consumed either voluntarily or given to them without their knowledge. Six of the respondents knew the offender, three stated the offender was a current or former spouse or significant other, two were a casual acquaintance, and one was a person well known to them such as a friend or a roommate.

Lastly, respondents were asked whether they had been subjected to unwanted sexual activity such as grabbing, fondling, touching, or kissing. Less than one percent (0.96 percent) of the respondents stated that they had been a victim of this type of unwanted activity. Of the 24 victims, only three reported the incident to the police. The majority of the respondents who did not report the crime stated they believed the incident was a private or personal matter and that police did not need to be involved. Seven of the victims who did not report the incident to the police stated they were unaware that the incident was a crime.

#### **Threats of Crime**

Respondents were asked to report whether they had been caused to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, or threatened on at least two separate occasions. From a list of behaviors, respondents stated the way in which they were threatened; multiple responses were accepted. A total of 129 respondents reported 265 acts of intimidation. Fewer

males reported feeling threatened than females, 111 and 154 instances, respectively. The most commonly reported incident of intimidation or threat was through unwanted phone calls, excluding bill collectors and solicitors. This was followed by posted information or rumors about the respondent on the internet, in a public place, or by word-of-mouth, and threats to harm or kill the respondent or the respondent's family, friends, co-workers, or pets.

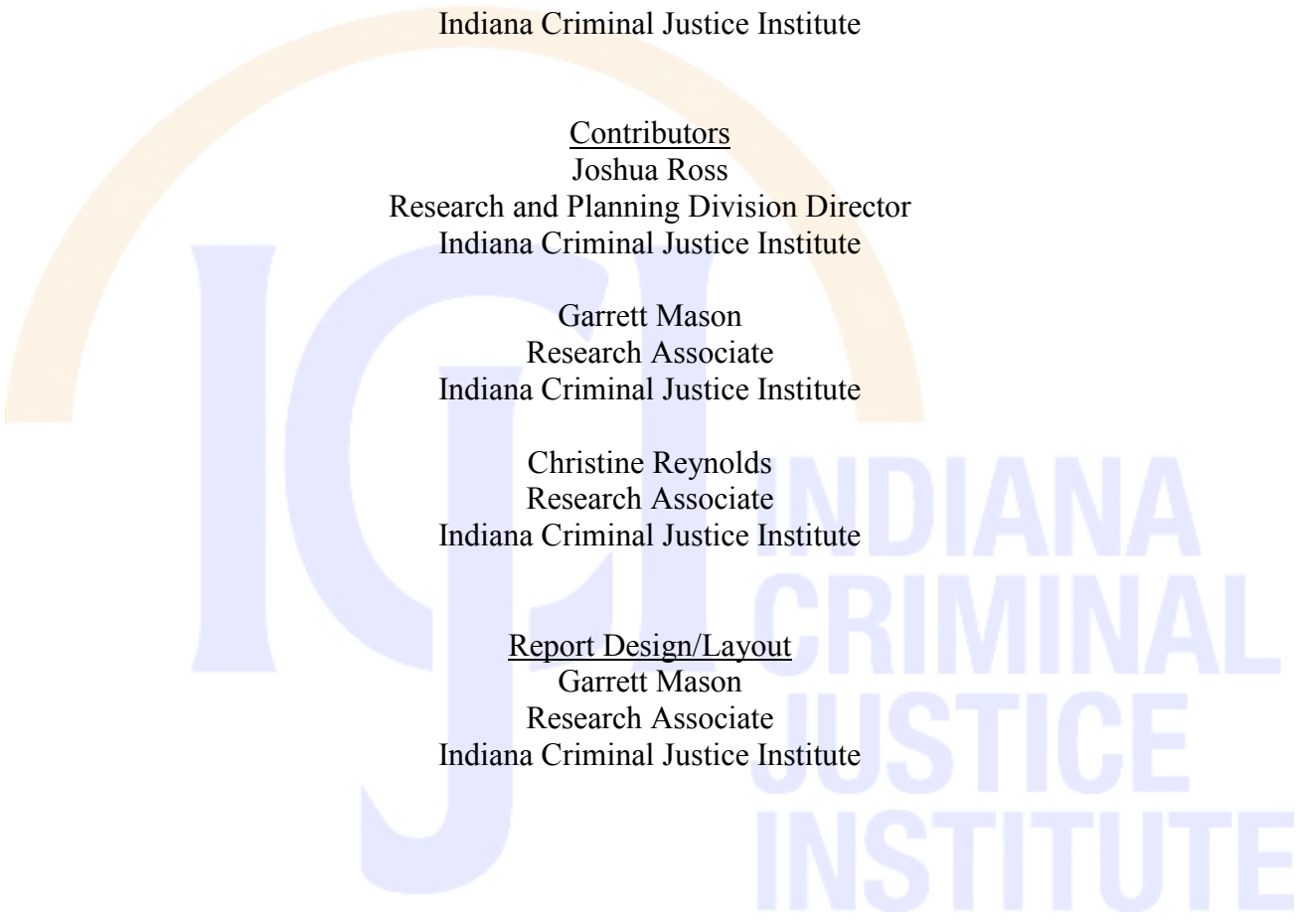
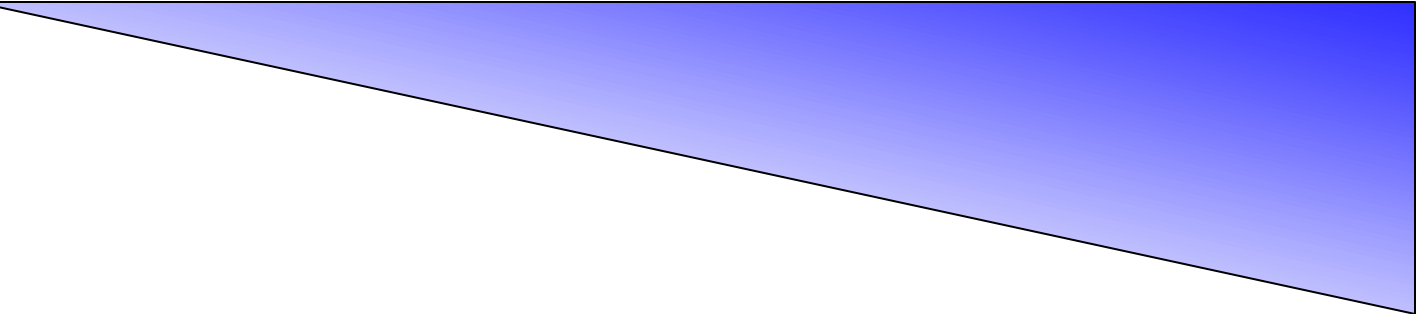
Two-thirds of respondents who stated they had been threatened during 2010 knew or had seen the offender before; the majority being either a current or former spouse or significant other or a person well known to them (non-family member), such as a friend or roommate.

### **Identity Theft**

Lastly, the respondents were asked a series of questions regarding identity theft. Similar to the NCVS, this survey instrument focused on the unauthorized use or attempted use of existing credit cards, the unauthorized use or attempted use of other existing accounts (i.e., bank account, debit, ATM card, or wireless telephone account), and the misuse of personal information to obtain new accounts or loans.

During 2010, 281 respondents (11.2 percent) stated they were a victim of 385 acts of identity theft. The average dollar amount taken was \$1,759.00; however, 65 of the identity theft victims reported that the transaction was stopped prior to money being taken. Nearly one-third of victims (32.1 percent) reported the incident to the police.





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